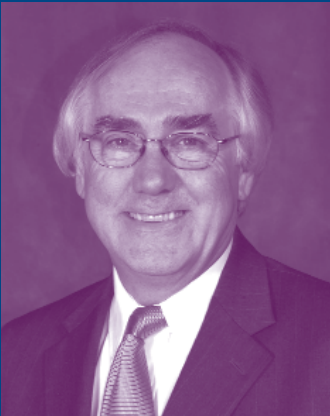


Contact  
Representative  
**Dennis  
Avery**



Office:  
1-800-382-9842

Address:  
200 W. Washington St  
Indianapolis IN 46204

Online:  
H75@in.gov  
www.in.gov/H75  
  
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to receive email updates*

**Time bill, Colts scheme not a help**

**T**wo initiatives—Daylight-Saving Time and the funding of a new stadium for the Indianapolis Colts—received much of the media coverage during this year's session. I opposed the final versions of both bills because they were unfair to our part of the state.

**DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME**

After several votes, many delays and some muscle from Governor Mitch Daniels, the legislature decided that most of Indiana will observe Eastern Daylight-Saving Time beginning next spring. If the goal of this legislation was a show of political force from the governor, then it was a success. If the goal was to develop a uniform time standard for our state, it was a failure.



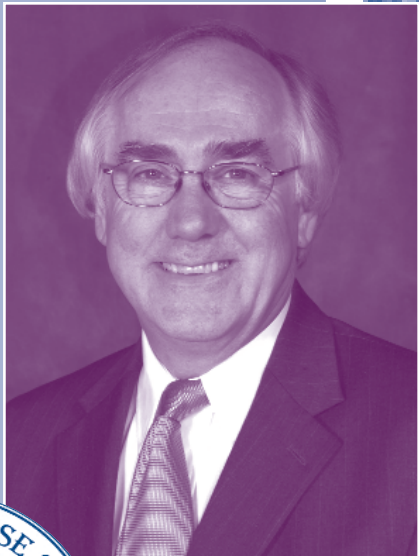
The legislation as it was passed required the governor to petition the U.S. Department of Transportation to hold hearings and determine the appropriate time zone in which Indiana should be placed. Governor Daniels expressed a clear desire during his campaign that he preferred the Central Time Zone. He later reversed course and petitioned for the hearings without stating a preference. The federal Department of Transportation then refused to hold hearings to let people express their opinions.

**COLTS STADIUM**

I opposed the final Colts stadium bill because we devoted numerous session days and committee meetings to finding a way to keep the Colts in Indianapolis, yet we found no way to keep local schools from losing funding.

I remain confident that we will survive through the efforts of our educators, parents and community leaders. I am deeply disappointed, however, that this legislature has let them down.

State Representative  
**Dennis Avery**



*Session Report*



**Representative Dennis Avery**

200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis IN 46204

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# INDIANA'S NEW BUDGET

## School Funding Cuts and Increased Property Taxes

The new state budget that passed by a narrow margin increases property taxes and, at the same time, cuts funding for local schools. After years of bipartisan efforts to reform education and reduce property taxes, the Republican party has approved a budget that will cut state funding for many schools, take \$690 million out of the teacher's pension fund and raise property taxes by nearly \$850 million.

I voted "NO" on the state budget because of the negative impact it will have on education, retired teachers, children and those who pay property taxes. I believe there will be many victims of the new state budget.

There are no minimum guarantees in state funding for schools, which means more than 140 school corporations will receive less money. Those corporations will be forced into eliminating teachers, cutting programs and increasing class sizes. Any additional funding for schools

will come primarily from raising local property taxes.

There will be reduced state support through the Property Tax Replacement Credit (PTRC), another move that will increase local property taxes. This eliminates the promise of just three years ago to provide more state support to combat rising property taxes in light of the historic and controversial statewide reassessment.

In addition, funding for the program that provides health care for the elderly, disabled and children will increase by half of the growth predicted by bipartisan experts. State assistance for road repairs and improvements will decrease as well.

It is a shame that the legacy of this session will be a budget that turns its back on Indiana's schoolchildren and property taxpayers. For anyone who cares about education and local taxpayers, it is simply indefensible.

**"I believe  
there will  
be many  
victims of  
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state  
budget."**

## Keeping You Safe

### PROTECTING FIREFIGHTERS



*Rep. Avery visited with German Township firefighters to experience simulated fire conditions.*

Volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians will not be penalized by their employers for being absent when they are responding to emergency calls.

### BLOOD TYPING

You will be able to request that your blood type be placed on your driver's license, driver's permit or other identification card.

### HELPING SURVIVORS

The surviving spouse and children of Indiana State Police officers who are killed in the line of duty will be able to receive health care coverage.

### PROTECTING VICTIMS

Victims will be automatically notified when offenders are released from prison or have their status changed. Offenders on home detention will be ordered to wear monitoring devices that constantly track their location.

## Preventing Child Abuse

This session, I continued to work toward keeping our kids safer by strengthening Indiana's laws regarding child abuse and neglect.

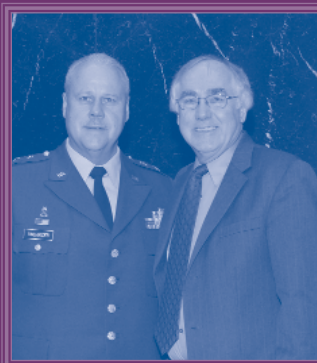
I filed House Bill 1699 which required the Department of Child Services to conduct criminal history checks on families where children are being placed after removal from their homes.

HB 1699 also requires information to be released following the death of a child while in the custody of the Family and Social Services Administration. The first priority in tragic situations where a child dies should be finding out exactly what happened and determining how to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

These initiatives were amended into Senate Enrolled Act 529 at the end of session and were enacted into law. I am proud to have been a part of helping to close up the loopholes that existed in the law and hope that we have taken yet another step toward keeping our kids healthy and safe.



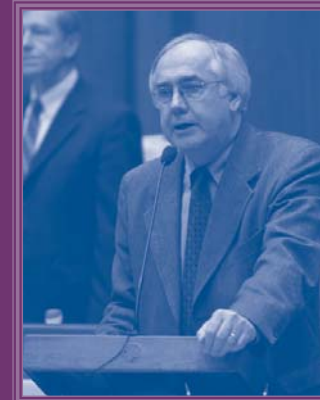
## 2005 Session Highlights



*Rep. Avery congratulates college classmate Gen. Marty Umberger upon being appointed Indiana's new Adjutant General.*



*Rep. Avery discusses the Daylight-Saving Time Bill on the floor of the House of Representatives.*



*Rep. Avery speaks at the podium on the House floor.*

## Speed Limits

Hoosier drivers can now go faster on major roadways in Indiana. On July 1, speed limits on rural sections of interstate highways increased from 65 to 70 mph for cars and 60 to 65 mph for trucks. Speed limits on four-lane divided highways will increase from 55 to 60 mph following a safety study by the Indiana Department of Transportation.

## Alternate Fuels

Whenever possible, state government vehicles will be required to run on agriculture-based fuels, such as biodiesel, ethanol or gasohol.

## Inspector General

Fraud and corruption in state government will be investigated by an inspector general created through a new state law approved in 2005. In its original form, this bill allocated an unprecedented amount of power to one individual who would be appointed by, and would answer only to, the governor. Thanks to changes championed by House Democrats, this law now requires the Inspector General to work with locally-elected prosecutors and judges in investigating charges of wrongdoing.

## Tax Amnesty

A new law approved this year will give delinquent taxpayers a grace period in which to pay the state back taxes without interest, penalties or fees. I voted against this measure because I believe that most of the taxpayers in my district are honest, tax-paying Hoosiers and I disagree with the idea that we should reward "tax cheats" for not paying their taxes.